CONFEDERATE VETERAN.

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PROBLEM OF THE NEGROES.

The Veteran has been silent on this most important question; but every phase of it has been considered constantly and diligently, especially from the standpoint of friendship for that thriftless but most amiable race. Antagonisms exist as they never did before, and the neglect of white people in behalf of these issues has been greatly to their discredit. We all like the old negroes, and those of the fast-decaying remnant of ex-slaves are still faithful and loyal to the families of their former masters. The same instincts are much more prevalent among their offspring than is generally realized. While the Associated Press brings a terrible account of a fiendish deed by one negro, ten thousand others are going quietly about their business as law-abiding and worthy of consideration as could be expected of them.

It seems that education has been a curse rather than a blessing to them. The editor of the Veteran soon after attaining his majority, early after the close of the war, took an active part in behalf of their education. He antagonized some of his people as editor of a country newspaper in advocacy of public schools, which required that as good facilities be given to the blacks as the whites. He attended a venerable divine, President of the Davidson County School Board, who, when the movement was quite unpopular, canvassed his native county of Bedford in their behalf from purely benevolent motives, making the one argument that all men should learn to read the Bible. It seems, however, that when a negro has learned to read he ceases to work, and his idleness begets mischief, and often of the worst kind.

There is not sufficient cooperation of the two races. Besides, many whites are not justly considerate of negroes. White people should confer with the better classes of blacks for the common good, and they should cooperate cordially.

The separate car laws are proper, and became a necessity because of the insolent presumption of negroes. It was quite the rule for them to string out the length of cars, so as to compel whites to sit among them, and every act toward social equality has proven a tendency to insolence. The negroes made this isolation a necessity, and they may expect its perpetuity. With these laws in force the blacks should be very considerate and see that no injustice is done the negroes. Again, there is a sore lack of consideration for negroes in conversations by white people. The negro is not to blame for his color and not wholly so for his odor; and, inasmuch as we declare his inferiority, we should be diligent that justice be done him. Often are remarks made in the presence of negroes that instinctively create hatred not only toward those who are inconsiderate but against the white race. Every white person should be on guard to avoid giving offense in this manner.

At the first annual dinner of the Alabama Society (of one hundred and fifty members) in New York near Christmas day the Hon. Seth Low, of that great city, was a special guest. This race question was the theme of the evening, and Mr. Low, with exquisite deference, suggested that the white people of the South consider these unhappy disturbances as fairly as possible, looking at the situation from the standpoint of the negro. The condition confronts us, and the sooner we grapple with it the better. White people intend to control, and the negro will be the greater sufferer in the end for all disturbances, so that both races should do all in their power for the friendliest relations possible. Southern whites know the negroes best, and they should do their best to restore helpful relations.

No more negroes should be admitted to the army, and the amendment to the Constitution giving negroes the ballot should be repealed. This ballot feature is the luring one in social as well as political strife. In compelling the negro to keep his place the highest instincts of life should be exercised to treat him kindly and justly in every way.

Let the servant problem be solved. Many white women succeed in making earnest friendships with their servants, and all goes well. There is a certain way of being kind to servants which wins. Dignity must be maintained, and yet a kindly consideration shown to the servant that commands the spirit of justice.

Let us confront the problem honestly. The negro did not come among us of his own accord, and they can't all get away. If proper tact were exercised, it would be quite sufficient. Let the white people of the South revive the old rule of kindness, and never, anyhow in their presence, speak ill of the negro race.

The following will be a timely hint as to a gift for all seasons of the year: "In thinking of a Christmas present for some Southern friends in the Far West, I have decided on the CONFEDERATE VETERAN as probably an acceptable one."

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES OF U. D. C. OFFICIALS.—Mrs. A. L. Dowdell, Recording Secretary, Opelika, Ala.; Mrs. L. H. Raines, Custodian Cross of Honor, 408 Duffy Street, Savannah, Ga.; Mrs. L. Eastacce Williams, Treasurer, Box 35, Anchorage, Ky.

On June 6, 1864, Captain Wirth wrote calling attention to the inferior quality of bread issued to the prisoners, saying that one-sixth was husks and that it was bad for the prisoners. He then begged that the commissary be required to have it bolted or sifted before issuing. He explained "before issuing" to save the loss of issue it would entail of the food the prisoners needed so badly. This in behalf of the prisoners.

OFFICIAL U. C. V. TRIBUTE TO MRS. DAVIS.—From the official General Orders, No. 37, U. C. V., New Orleans, the following statement is copied: "Mrs. Davis was such a part of the people of this section, participating in their griefs and sorrows and rejoicing in their prosperity and happiness, and was for so many years intimately associated with the people in every way, that an extended notice is unnecessary. She was in every sense of the South Southern lady. Her earliest wish was to live and die among the people and to do so well; and what she suffered that ill health compelled her to take up her residence among strangers, far from her people, is known only to those who have intimate with her. And, though denied the pleasure of seeing them in the flesh, she was ever present in spirit, and is dwelling in the heroic deeds of our compatriots. As an angel, as a wife, as a mother, as a patriot, as a Southerner, she attained a high eminence in the estimation of world, and died, full of years and good achievements, respected by and beloved by all survivors of the Southern armies."